

## Business assistance programs form Fauquier Collaborative



There are many organizations in the community that provide helpful sessions for entrepreneurs and three women got together to discuss the possibilities of publicizing these events. The question arose among Michelle Coe, Fauquier Chamber and the Micro Enterprise Council; Christine Kriz, Lord Fairfax Small Business Development Center; and Jennifer Goldman, Fauquier Enterprise Center: How will we know what is going on if we don't get together? The answer was it would be nice to work together, intentionally, and include others.

The group recognized that several organizations within Fauquier County have similar missions and services with respect to assisting small businesses, helping entrepreneurs start their businesses, and providing resources and special events to interested persons.

The small group contacted 17 more organizations to collaborate in publicizing events in order to provide services to small businesses, including MEC-Fauquier. Those who serve business clients and focus on creating events for small business owners are invited to be a part of what is now known at the Fauquier Collaborative. The informal group, mostly non-profit organizations and local government entities, is open to organizations in Fauquier County who have a focus to serve the business community through educations and business development support. The Fauquier Collaborative is not affiliated with any group, and there are no fees to participate.